

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-04 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /046 W
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P R 250416Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO USIA WASHINGTON PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3798

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLAS 5-31-80

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL SHAKEUP AT TIMES-JOURNAL

1. JOSE LUNA CASTRO AND EURNESTO DEL ROSARIO, RESPECTIVE-
LY EDITORIAL DIRECTOR AND EDITORIAL CONSULTANT OF DAILY TIMES-
JOURNAL, WERE REMOVED LATE YESTERDAY IN EDITORIAL SHAKEUP
OCCASIONED BY THE JOURNAL'S PUBLICATION OF SOMEWHAT SENSATIONAL
SERIES ON EXCESSES BY ARAB SHEIKHS UNDER BYLINE FRED SPARKS,
LONG-TIME AMERICAN MIDEAST FREE-LANCER.

2. NUMBER OF ARAB DIPLOMATS, NOTABLY EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI AMBASS-
ADORS, ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LODGED PROTESTS UP TO AND INCLUDING
PRESIDENT MARCOS HIMSELF. PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY TOLD SAUDI AMBASS-
ADOR YESTERDAY THAT JOURNAL WOULD ISSUE APOLOGY AND THAT HEADS
OF THOSE RESPOJSIBLE WOULD ROLL.

3. MASTHEAD OF JOURNAL MAY 25 APPEARED WITHOUT NAMES OF CASTRO
AND DEL ROSARIO. APOLOGY HEADED "NO MALICE INTENDED" APPEARS
PROMINENTLY IN BOX FRONT PAGE. APOLOGY REFERRED TO NUMEROUS PRO-
TESTS FROM READERS, BOTH FILIPINOS AND FOREIGNERS, AND IN VEIL-
ED REFERENCE TO PRINCIPAL SOURCE COMPLAINTS, SAYS "SOME HIGHLY
PLACED MEMBERS OF SOCIETY CONSIDERED IT AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE
PHILIPPINE MIDDLE EAST POLICY." (COMMENT: WHEN USIS LOCALS
INQUIRED IN LOWKEY MANNER ABOUT SPARKS SERIES ON MONDAY,
TIMES-JOURNAL STAFFERS SAID SO FAR AS THEY KNEW NO PROTESTS HAD
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BEEN RECEIVED, BUT WHEN ACTING PAO CASUALLY MENTIONED SERIES

IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH
CASTRO AT DINNER GIVEN BY DPI SECRETARY FRANCISCO S. TATAD MAY
22, CASTRO BLANCHED VISIBLY AND QUICKLY CHANGED SUBJECT.)

4. CASTRO AND DEL ROSARIO PRESUMABLY TOLD OF FIRING AFTERNOON
MAY 24 BY JOURNAL PUBLISHER OLIVAS, FOR MANY YEARS ASSOCIATE
OF KOKOY FOMUALDEZ. DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS OTHER INTERESTED
POSTS.
PHILLIPS, ACTING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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